

come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

What is claimed is:

1. In a networked system that includes a client and a server, a method for discovering particular information on the networked system, the method comprising:

initiating a request at the client to discover the particular information, wherein the request is made using at least one of:

- 5 (i) a broadcast procedure; and
 (ii) a multicast procedure;

receiving a response to the request from a server after a random delay time; and
establishing a connection with the server.

10 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request is further made using a randomized exponential backoff strategy.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the request identifies a particular part of a server where the particular information may be located.

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4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the client is a television that is configured to provide programming content.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the client is a television and the
20 server is a computer device.

6. A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising a step for receiving a second response to the request from a second server after the random delay time.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the step for establishing a connection further comprises a step for determining not to connect to the second sever.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step for determining not to
5 connect to the second server is based on at least one of:

- (i) whether the client has established a connection with another server;
and
- (ii) a characteristic of the server which the client establishes a connection.

10 9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the characteristic of the server is a version of the server.

10. A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:
discovering a network disconnect;
15 initiating a second request at the client to discover the particular information,
wherein the second request is made using at least one of:

- (i) a broadcast procedure; and
- (iii) a multicast procedure;

receiving a subsequent response to the second request from the server after a
20 random delay time; and
establishing a second connection with the server.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the request is further made using a randomized exponential backoff strategy.

12. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the request uses a user datagram
5 protocol.

13. A networked system comprising:
a server coupled to a network; and
a client coupled to the network, wherein the client is configured to selectively provide
a request on the network to discover the server, wherein the client is configured to selectively
5 provide programming content to a viewer, and wherein the a request is made at least one of
(i) a broadcast procedure and (ii) a multicast procedure.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the request is further made using a
randomized exponential backoff strategy.
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15. A networked system as recited in claim 14, wherein the network is a home
network.

16. A networked system as recited in claim 14, wherein the request identifies a
15 particular part of the server where desirable information is located.

17. A networked system as recited in claim 14, wherein the client is a television.

18. A networked system as recited in claim 17, wherein the client is a TV and the
20 server is a computer device.

19. A networked system as recited in claim 14, wherein the request uses a user
datagram protocol.

20. A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a method for discovering particular information on the networked system, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means
5 utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

initiating a request at the client to discover the particular information,

wherein the request is made using at least one of:

(i) a broadcast procedure; and

10 (ii) a multicast procedure;

receiving a response to the request from a server after a random delay
time; and

establishing a connection with the server.

15 21. A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the request is further made using a randomized exponential backoff strategy.

22. A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the client is a television that is configured to provide programming content.

20 23. A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the client is a television and the server is a computer device.

24. A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing a step for receiving a second response to the request from a second server after the random delay time.

5 25. A computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the step for establishing a connection further comprises a step for determining not to establish a connection to the second sever.

26. A computer program product as recited in claim 25, wherein the step for
10 determining not to establish a connection to the second server is based on at least one of:

- (i) whether the client has established a connection with another server;
and
- (ii) a characteristic of the server with which the client establishes a
connection.

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27. A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the characteristic of the server is a version of the server.

28. A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer program code means is further comprised of executable code for implementing:

discovering a network disconnect;

initiating a second request at the client to discover the particular information,

5 wherein the second request is made using at least one of:

(i) a broadcast procedure; and

(ii) a multicast procedure;

receiving a subsequent response to the second request from the server after a random delay time; and

10 establishing a second connection with the server.

29. A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the request is further made using a randomized exponential backoff strategy.